Lovely Strange Dark
NINGYO OUJI
"MERMAID PRINCE"
BY OZAKI KAORI
CHAPTER 1
Raws & translation
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lovelystrangedark.wordpress.com

人魚王子

尾崎かおり

Kaori Ozaki

MERMAID PRINCE

Ningyo Ouji

Mermaid Prince

Ozaki Kaori

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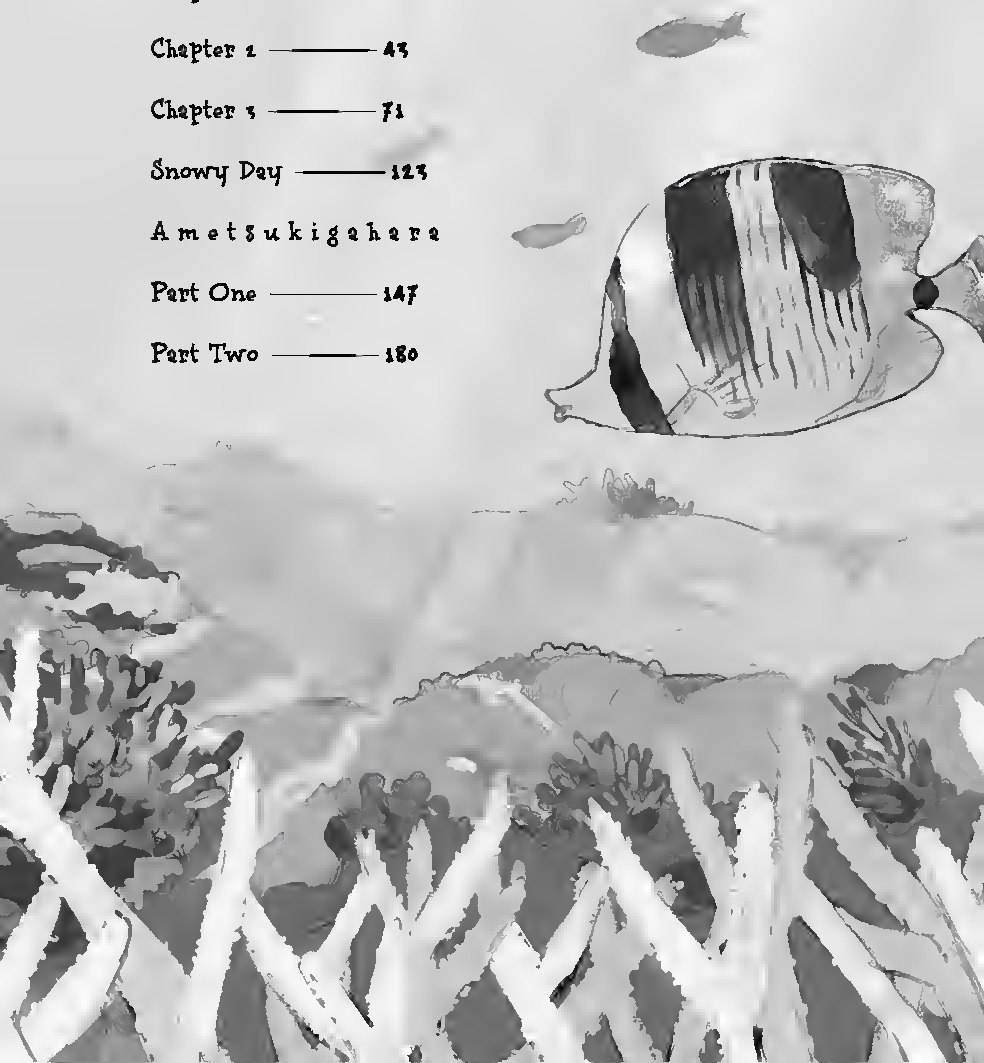
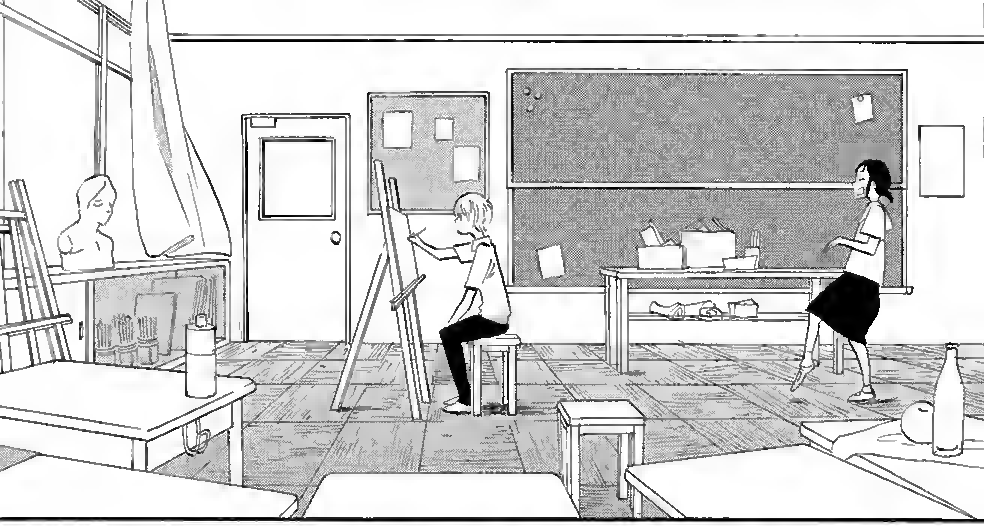
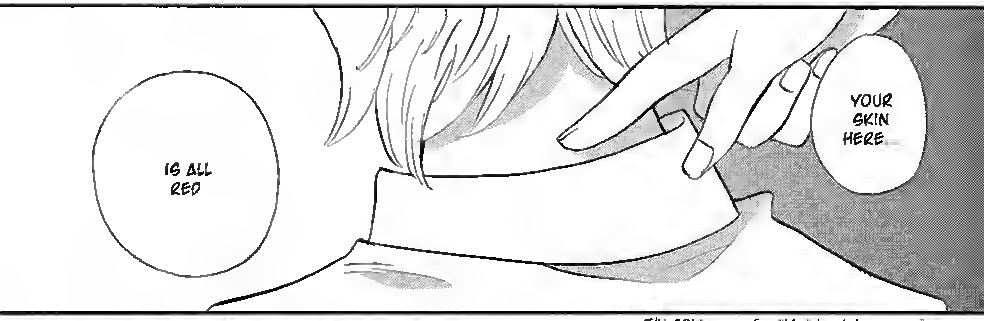


There wos once o mermaid, born in the deep sea, who loved the sun in the skies obove.
But it wos too hot ond too blindingly bright...
for the mermoid to opprooch.

Ningyo Ouji
Mermaid Prince
— Chapter 1 —





T/N: *Okinawan for "Mainland Japanese."

BANG
Whoa.
BLEEEH
I AIN'T FEELIN' IT
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
MUGI,
GO GET US SOME DRINKS
Smack

HUH?
WAIT...
Rise
GLARE
WHY...
beer
WHY'D YOU LET THEM PUSH YOU AROUND!?
...!
Dash
Hmph

SLIDE
MUGI!
AREN'T YOU MAD AT THEM!?
—AH...!

...WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
SOB
SOB
HIC
HIC
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
WH-WHAT...
WAS THE DRAWING SUPPOSED TO BE?
A MERMAID

THIS HERE IS CALLED A MONOFIN
ONCE YOU'VE MASTERED IT, YOU'LL BE SWIMMING LIKE A DOLPHIN.
SWOOSH

WHOA!
AWESOME!!
Mif
fed
I MADE TEA!
KOTARO!!

IT'S YOUR SISTER, MUGI.
OH
——WHO CARES...
MUGI!!!!!!! MADOR!!!!!!!
COME OVER HERE!
THERE'S SNACKS FOR YOU!

Aoi moved here with Mugi when she married Kotaro, who's an islander.
EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE!
Not you guys.
OH, YEAH!
WILL DO.
...
Their parents aren't around,
MUGI, HOW'S SCHOOL?
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH HIM, MADORI.
I don't think.
AH!
ABOUT THAT—
SQUISH

YOU CAN COUNT ON OUR MATRYOSHKA HERE TO BOUNCE BACK
AH HA HA!
OWWW!
Kotaro has a dive shop
And people say..
he holds a record for free diving in some competition.
SURE AM
— AREN'T YOU AFRAID,
GOING DOWN DEEP UNDER...?

BUT THAT'S FINE
DID YOU KNOW?
YOU START SINKING, LIKE YOU'RE GETTING SUCKED DOWN.
30 METERS IN, YOUR BODY LOSES BUOYANCY.
BEFORE LONG YOU HEAR NOTHING, SEE NOTHING.
THINK OF IT AS BEING IN A SPACESHIP ALL ON YOUR OWN
YOU GO AS FAR AS YOU CAN.
TEETERING BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH. AND THEN YOU COME BACK.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I TRIED GOING PAST 50 METERS
THAT IS SCARY
BUT ONE TIME, WHEN I WAS IN THAT UNIVERSE OF THE SEA,
I SAW SOMETHING INCREDIBLE

GLUG

MIGHT HAVE BEEN A HALLUCINATION BROUGHT ON BY NITROGEN NARCOSIS
A MERMAID!?
SURE ENOUGH, I PASSED OUT.
NEXT THING I KNEW, MY TEAM HAD PULLED ME ONTO THE BOAT.
!!!
THAT'S THE FIRST...

...I'VE HEARD OF IT.
MERMAIDS ARE REAL?
IT TAKES TRAINING TO DO FREE DIVING.
BUT IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE OCEAN, YOU CAN DO IT SNORKELING, EASY
WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY?
...
THAT'S BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T TALKED MUCH

COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
MUGI!
MUGI,
ARE YOU OK!?
KOTARO!
SWIMMING IS OFF-LIMITS FOR HIM!
HE HAS ASTHMA AND BURNS EASILY!
S-SORRY

——I'M SORRY, MUGI...
cough
cough
!
MUGI!

YOU'RE OK, AREN'T YOU?
.....
flap flap

THEY'RE PICTURE-PERFECT.
DREAMY!
BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE MAKE BEAUTIFUL COUPLES,
RIGHT?
HUH?
THEY MAKE ME SICK
I CAN HEAR THEM BANGING EACH OTHER EVERY SINGLE DAY

WHAT IF I DROWNED AND DIED BECAUSE OF HIM?
I WONDER...
BANG-ING...
HOW...
WOULD HE LOOK THEN?

I...
WUOSH
DON'T KNOW NOTHING ABOUT MUGI...

ROLL CALL.
THERE'S AN OPEN SEAT OVER THERE.
Mugi transferred in at the start of the new term.
TAMASHIRO
SUNAKAWA.
Here!
BDMP
BDMP
TAIRA.
But that ain't what I was thinking about back then.
Here!
TEACHER, THERE AIN'T NOBODY NAMED TAMASHIRO IN THIS CLASS.
STILL ON VACATION MODE, TEACH?

HERE!
OH,
UM..!
MY NAME CHANGED TO MADORI TAMASHIRO.
F-FAMILY SITUATION, YANNO?
S—
SORRY FOR THE INCONVE-NIENCE..
Ha ha...
I HOPE..
WE CAN..
STILL BE—
friends...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT!
YOU'RE YOU.
YOU TOTALLY UPSTAGED THE NEW KID,
MATRYOSHKA!
Ah ha ha!
Phew.
Ha ha ha!

It's time to go home♫
Those who remain♪

I DID IT...
grip
IT'S OK.
IT ALL WORKED OUT.
SLIDE

RATTLE
WHAT'S WRONG?
.....

.....
NAICHA,
WHAT'S TOKYO LIKE?

...WHAT'S IT LIKE?
NOTHING SPECIAL...

MY DAD'S GETTING MARRIED THERE.

TO A TOTAL STRANGER

pat
pat

The whole time Mugi was patting my head
the tears I'd been holding back...
streamed down my face

That's when...
Glug...
.....
That Prince Charming.
he became my very own Prince Charming. In secret.
Glug
Glug
Glug
fwuh

I HELD MY BREATH A FULL FIVE MINUTES
KO——

HEY
I RECKON IT'S FINE
MMMM...
REALLY?
BESIDES, SWIMMING IS GOOD FOR ASTHMA.
I COULD TEACH HIM.
ONCE HE CAN SWIM, HE'LL BE MORE CONFIDENT.
IT'LL OPEN A WHOLE NEW WORLD.

I...
WANT HIM TO ACCEPT ME...
BEER
H-HI.
MUGI, DINNER'S READY
TAKE OUT YOUR RICE BOWL.
.....

!
HMM...?
HYPOCRITE
When he comes back from the sea...

...is Mugi gonna be OK?
Or is he gonna wilt and dry out?*
*T/N Mugi literally means "wheat
I gotta...
keep him safe.